

*Jennifer Stock:* This is Jennifer Stock for another edition of Ocean Currents, the show that dives into ocean-related topics, bringing marine science and natural science, natural history, curiosity, and conservation about the ocean to you to help guide our understanding and appreciation for what makes up three quarters of our planet. This show is once a month, every fourth Thursday and rebroadcast the following Monday at 1pm. Today, we'll be talking about two different topics. I'm splitting up the show into two halves and on the first half of the show, I'll be talking to Reverend Deborah Streeter, leader of Upwellings, an environmental ministry and we'll be talking about a new initiative she is leading that brings together environmental scientists with religious leaders to focus on the dangers confronting the world's oceans.

So, very different point of view than we've had before and then on the second half of the show, I'll be bringing in a local film producer, David McGuire about a film he was recently a part of a team called Sharks, Stewards of the Reef, and he'll be giving us an update on that and where you can see it and about an upcoming event for World Oceans Day. So, stay with us. We'll be back in just a few moments. If you're just joining us, you're listening to Ocean Currents and we'll be back in just a minute.

On the line here I'm talking with Reverend Deborah Streeter who is an ordained Protestant minister for over twenty years. She also serves as a volunteer advisor on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary advisory council and she's also a docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She is the founder and director of Upwellings, a ministry of environmental stewardship based in Carmel, California. Recently, Deborah headed a year-long initiative called the Living Oceans Initiative that accumulated into a weekend retreat, bringing environmental scientists and religious leaders together to focus on what they have in common rather than what they do not. So, Deborah, thanks for joining me today on Ocean Currents.

*Deborah Streeter:* I'm very happy to be here, Jennifer. Thanks a lot.

*Jennifer Stock:* So, first I just want to focus...I don't often hear the term, environmental ministry. Could you talk about the Upwellings ministry is all about?

*Deborah Streeter:* Sure. I've been a local church pastor, a campus minister, a hospital chaplain, I've just done a lot of different kinds of ministry and when I moved to the central coast I found myself...it was like a calling to

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connect with the ocean and coastal issues and one day I decided to learn more about what the particular issues were that challenge us on the central coast was to become a guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which gives a great education as a preparation for being a guide and I learned about upwelling, which is an ocean phenomenon that happens just in five places on west coasts around the world and what...and the central coast is one...where the...in the spring and summer, the winds shift, the wind comes more from the north, blows the surface water away and, from the deep, upwells cold, nutrient-rich water that's part of a worldwide ocean, coastal, deep-sea current system and so, from long ago and far away, some of this water's been down there for thousands of years, from long ago and far away comes this deep, nutrient-rich water that feeds the ocean ecosystem like on the central coast that really feeds the whole kelp forest habitat.

As I learned about that ocean phenomenon, I said, "What a metaphor for the way that we in the spiritual community experience god." That the surface has to be blown away and from that change from long ago and far away comes this deep ocean nutrient system that feeds plants and animals and nourishes us and it's a gift. It's not something we can order up. It happens...in El Nino years it doesn't happen. So, it's also an example of how we are dependent upon our natural habitat systems. We can't control them.

So, I decided that as I was called to this ministry of trying to connect faith communities and ocean conservation issues that I would use the upwellings metaphor as a way of reminding all of us that it's a gift and we need to relate to this ocean as a partner in god's creation.

*Jennifer Stock:*

It is a really beautiful metaphor, especially the way you described it. I can really relate to that because I'm familiar with our ocean ecology and I'm wondering if people who are more connected with forest ecology or desert ecology have similar metaphors for them that spiritually move them. Do you know of other ministries in the world that are moved by the environment so much as you are with the ocean?, go to [cordellbank.noaa.gov](http://cordellbank.noaa.gov).

*Deborah Streeter:*

Well, there's been for many years...quite a few religious traditions have been involved in what's called "Green Theology." If you go to a religious bookstore or if you go online to Web of Creation dot org or the National Religious Partnership for the Environment or...there's really been a lot of work by a very broadly inter-faith group of folks for many years since Earth Day began in the late

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60's of folks who care about the environment from a religious perspective. I've sort of been intrigued...and a lot of it is inspired by Aldo Leopold, very important work where he describes a land-ethic that the land is not a commodity that belongs to us, but a community to which we belong. I just think that's a really key concept the idea of community and belong, but anyway, as I get to know the ocean ecosystem, I mean, I'm a minister, not a scientist, but as I got to know it I thought, "Well, I wonder is there such a thing as blue theology that's different from green theology?"

You know, a couple things that I think are important is that the ocean gives us all our weather, most of our air, you know, most of our climate in terms of the air we breathe comes from the plankton in the oceans, much of the food, increasingly people live near the coasts, so I...and I'm a great believer in evolution. I think evolution was one of god's great ideas for having...help life flourish on our planet so that we all began, the ocean is our birthplace, it's our womb. So, I think that as inter-faith groups have really worked a lot on green theology, I think they're now moving into blue theology.

*Jennifer Stock:* I think it's a wonderful way to bring a lot more people in to feel included in religion where some folks may feel excluded, but having that metaphor for a relationship with the bigger picture, it sounds very inviting to me, for someone, myself, not having been very active in religious practices, but the relationship to nature, I'm sure, is what brings a lot of folks in to help be a part of that. So, I wanted to ask you as part of your ministry in the last year or so, you've been working on this initiative called the Living Oceans Initiative and how did this idea come about and what's behind it?

*Deborah Streeter:* Well, let me just say that it's the Living Ocean Initiative. One...

*Jennifer Stock:* Oh, ocean.

*Deborah Streeter:* ...ocean....

*Jennifer Stock:* That's true. I should know that.

*Deborah Streeter:* One of the things, actually, I learned from the aquarium and from the National Marine Sanctuary Program that you're involved in and I too care deeply about is that I learned from them, this whole concept of ocean literacy that essentially it is one world ocean and we, you know, we just take part in a little, you know, our little part of it, but it's all way connected.

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*Jennifer Stock:* Thank you for clarifying that. You're right on with that. So, thank you.

*Deborah Streeter:* Well, I found that a very profound idea because, you know, when I was going to school it was all like, you know the seven seas and all of that, but anyway, as I felt this call to try and connect religious communities and ocean conservation communities, you know, like the Sierra Club or Friends of the Sea Otter, whatever, and scientific organizations like the Monterey Bay Aquarium or the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, it felt to me like we all cared about, in religious language we would say, "Caring for creation." We all had a common agenda. We all wanted to do what we could to care for creation, but we weren't doing much together.

We use different language. We were a little mistrustful of each other and I thought, "Well, maybe I could try and do something which would just bring everybody to the table," and just sort of share ideas. So, I got this idea of planning an event, which we had on February 20th at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which graciously hosted us, an event sponsored by the aquarium, but also by the National Marine Sanctuary Program and I gotta say, here are two science-based organizations, the aquarium and the National Marine Sanctuary Program, but they realized that reaching out to the religious community, broadly inter-faith, would help them complete their mission. So, they hosted an event of 150 religious leaders, broadly interfaith; Buddhists, Muslims, Hindu, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, New Age, and together we met with about 25 ocean scientists and conservation leaders. Our goal was simple to build bridges, to create partnerships and friendships and so we spent time together sharing our common concerns and coming up with ideas of what folks in religious communities could do to promote ocean conservation as faithful activity as, like, "Ok. You're going to try and be a good ex-, you know, Hindu, Buddhist, whatever doing ocean conservation would be a good...a faithful activity."

*Jennifer Stock:* Yeah, I'm not so familiar with diversity of religions that you are very familiar with, but isn't the stewardship of the land and the Earth one of the common denominators in many religions around the world?

*Deborah Streeter:* It's true, very much so. If you look at all the different religious traditions, and frankly, we have way more in common than divides us, but if you look at the different world religions they all have some kind of stewardship aspect, some kind of sense in which creation is a gift. It's not an object, it's a subject. In other words, we

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have a, you know, an I, thou relationship with it in Buber's terms. We...creation is something that is not as a resource for us to use, but a gift for which we should be thankful or a community to which we belong, you know, to use those kind of metaphors and every world religion has that and it's really not hard to find that support. So, I invited...I had a great planning committee, it wasn't just me, but I invited representatives from all of these different religious traditions on the central coast to come together and we invited from each religious community a clergyperson, an educator, and a layperson. In other words, three people from each congregation to say, "Okay, if we were going to do this, kind of work in our..."

*Jennifer Stock:* It's somewhat of a team, as they go back, they have team to be with instead of just one person.

*Deborah Streeter:* Exactly and a lot of it is around education. So, in the three months since this event I've just sort of been trying to pay attention to what the different congregations have done in terms of worship or communication or action or education and my pretty conservative estimate is that about 6,000 people have heard some kind of ocean conservation message...

*Jennifer Stock:* Wow.

*Deborah Streeter:* ...in their religious setting, in their spiritual community.

*Jennifer Stock:* So, what were some of the issues discussed and ways to bridge, I'm not so sure if it's a gap, necessarily, but ways to address some of the issues that were discussed and some outcomes that were placed with both the religious leaders and educators and also with the scientists.

*Deborah Streeter:* Well, it was really an exciting day and, you know, the temptation was just to go right to practical, you know, just say, "Okay. You got it? Do this. Don't do this," and, you know, and there are some very practical things, I mean, one thing that most religious communities like to do is eat. I mean, we all love to get together...

*Jennifer Stock:* That is another common denominator.

*Deborah Streeter:* ...and have potlucks and, you know, receptions after, you know, happy events and sad events, you know, weddings, funerals, whatever, and so one project we have is just promoting the aquarium's seafood watch card and just encouraging folks when they get together to eat sustainably-caught fish and that's an easy

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thing to do and we have a cookbook that encourages sustainably caught food and also includes lots of scriptural passages. You're standing there waiting for the water to boil and you can read this stuff, but more than that we were just trying to build some relationships of trust and common cause between the science community and the faith community. I just think it's one of the really sad things of the modern era that people feel like they have to choose.

They have to be either a science person or a religion person and that, you know, god gave us brains for a reason and I just think it's one of the great gifts that we have to learn about our environment and to try and care for it more faithfully. So, we found that there were actually a variety of scientists who were members of faith communities and there were a variety of religious folks who had science backgrounds and so we wanted to give people a chance to have those kind of conversations and say, "Wow, you know, god created this amazing world and let's take care of it in better way."

*Jennifer Stock:*

So, what were some of the things scientists felt they could help to bridge the gap perhaps more. Is there a communication method or, I mean, it sounds like there's a lot of discussion of realizing the common ground, but as far as next steps go, do you...scientists have a new role they may consider as far as communicating?

*Deborah Streeter:*

Well, part of the question is sort of the old head, heart question. Just to use the aquarium as an example, they were one of the sponsors, but the sanctuary program was another very important sponsor of this event. but, you know, how do you change behavior? How do you encourage people to become better stewards of the environment and I think we've had this idea and the scientists, in general, have often had this idea that we work from the head, you know? Give people facts, tell them, you know, tell them the problem and give them lots of data and all of that and then they'll change behavior, but what we're finding is that you also need to talk to peoples' hearts. You can't just talk to heads, you need to talk to hearts and so, if someone is at a worship service and hears that to be a faithful person means to change your behavior in terms of how you relate to your coastline, what you do with your oil, or how you eat or choices you make.

That's a religious concept. It's not just a head thing. It's a heart thing and so, since the event, there have been lots of activities where churches have done...and not just churches, I don't like to use that term, I try to use the term congregations because it's a little more inclusive. It's been a great challenge working in the inter-

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faith community and just finding language that have meaning for everybody, but anyway, just trying to help congregations be faithful in terms of their lifestyle and changing behavior.

*Jennifer Stock:* It's wonderful. Thanks for describing that. I think that's one of the major things that people don't realize in regards to changing behavior and we're in a real critical crisis now on our planet and people are realizing, "Wow, we have things to do," but it isn't until people care in their hearts that they're gonna or can do it or make it easy for them to make those changes and it's one of the major issues we face in education and we can outreach and educate as much as we want, but until people to really take it to heart and it matters to them personally, not much can happen. So, it's wonderful to discuss that and make that more out there and aware because it's something we don't talk about a lot in regards to how to change behavior.

*Deborah Streeter:* Well, I really appreciate the fact that both the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which is, you know, a part of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. You're involved with Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank and all of that. So, this incredible program that our tax dollars support to protect these ocean habitats and then the Monterey Bay Aquarium. They're both science-based organizations, but they were willing to take a risk and spend some money and some time building partnerships with the religious community. I really valued that and I think that folks...they want to make a difference. They want to know what they can do to help preserve our coastline.

*Jennifer Stock:* That's great. I have a quote here from one of the articles that was sent out after that covered this event and Julie Packard, the executive director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, called this a, "chance to build a constituency for the conservation of the ocean," which I just interpreted as just broadening our constituency and like you were saying, the aquarium and the marine sanctuaries, we are probably very limited in who we're reaching with our audiences and it's wonderful to have leaders like you really taking that to another level of folks we may not be reaching. It said in one of these articles that the Pew Research Center found that 59 percent of Americans say religion plays a very important role in their lives, double the number who say so in Europe and that speaks very largely about who Americans listen to when deciding who to vote for and how to live.

59 Percent and so, we ought to be working more with religious leaders and other types of groups that we don't necessarily reach to

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bring people in more to become more steward-based and aware of their environment. So, it's people like you that have really helped bridge those gaps. So, Deborah, it's wonderful to have you leading this effort.

*Deborah Streeter:* Well, if you look at American History and the social movements; abolition, women's rights, civil rights, gay and lesbian rights, none of those have reached a critical mass and affected change, sort of culture change, until the religious community got involved and it was, you know, abolition became a religious movement about, you know, we're all created in god's image. No one should be a slave. Then (unintelligible) women's rights, civil rights, and now gay and lesbian rights and I really see environmental issues as sort of the frontier for a really important religious movement and as you go on any, you know, a couple of websites that are great, webofcreation.org, national religious partnership for the environment, nrpe.org, it's amazing what religious organizations are doing to promote this sense of gift and really justice because environmental degradation and climate change, whatever, it effects the poor way more than it effects those of us in privilege and so, religious communities, broadly diverse, are really getting involved in this and I think they're an important partner in this effort.

*Jennifer Stock:* Do you think future participation on these issues and the religious efforts that you're talking about may eventually bring in more conservative religious beliefs and there is such a broad spectrum of folks out there and there are some folks that are a little bit more conservative. What do you think it's going to take to bring them on to really get behind it.

*Deborah Streeter:* Well, you know, actually there's a very interesting phenomenon that's happening in the, you know, I'm not a big fan of labels, I mean, you know, in my religious tradition Jesus said, you know, there's neither male nor female, Greek nor Jew, slave nor free. You know, it's like, get rid of labels, but we do, you know, we function in a label community. So, these so-called more conservative theological types, they have in the last year or so really stepped up and done some very creative stuff around conservation. They have a great new film called "The Second Warming" about climate change. They spearheaded a whole effort, which was called "What Would Jesus Drive," you know, this whole thing about the bracelets and what would Jesus do?

They did an effort, what would Jesus drive and their point was that Jesus would drive a hybrid car and the religious communities, the so-called conservative religious community, has really brought a



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great...you know, I think every religious community brings a gift to the table. It's a big table. We all bring gifts to the table and what the conservative theological community brings is a great concern for the poor and for justice and...

*Jennifer Stock:* That's a good point.

*Deborah Streeter:* ...and they're really doing some very creative work in that regard and I'm very thankful for them, Richard Sissick and the National (unintelligible) Association, I think, is being very bold in that work.

*Jennifer Stock:* Well, Deborah, we're just about out of time and I wanted to give you another opportunity, can you mention those websites again where people might be able to go to read up a little bit more on some of the work being done?

*Deborah Streeter:* Sure. I mean, I would just encourage people to just poke around on the net. I mean, go to the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Go to the SiMON website, which is also the west coast sanctuary website, but in terms of the....just to learn more, you know, because I really can't emphasize enough, god gave us brains and really, I think is thrilled when we learn more and we do more, but in terms of the work that the religious community is doing broadly defined, I really am committed to inter-faith work. A couple great websites are webofcreation.org. That's the World Council of Churches, I mean, the National Council of Churches website and then there's also NRPE.org, which is National Religious Partnership for the Environment and I mean, we're talking, you know, I don't hang out a lot with the conservative religious right, but in terms of environmental work, we're all working together. We're all on the same page and so those are two very good websites and then, I'm a big fan of thankyouocean.org, which is our, again, our tax dollars at work, it's an effort of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the California Resources Agency and it's a wonderful 30 second public service announcement, Thank You Ocean dot org, that is essentially, it's a video prayer.

It's a statement of thank you and it's a personal relationship to the ocean.

*Jennifer Stock:* That's excellent. It's great that you mention that. Thank you. We're going to be talking about the thank you, ocean in the second half of the show a little bit. So, that was nice that you mentioned that. Deborah, thanks so much for sharing your information with us and being a leader bridging new constituencies to help get on board

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with protecting the ocean and environment. It's really wonderful and inspirational to talk with you. Thanks for joining us today.

*Deborah Streeter:* Well, Jennifer, I really appreciate the chance at talking. If anyone wants to be in touch with me, they can just go to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and I'm the chair of the advisory council...

*Jennifer Stock:* Great.

*Deborah Streeter:* ...and my email is online there.

*Jennifer Stock:* Perfect. Thanks so much.

*Deborah Streeter:* Thanks, Jennifer.

*Jennifer Stock:* Ok, we'll be talking to you soon. Take care.

*Deborah Streeter:* Okay. Bye.

*Jennifer Stock:* Buh-bye. And those of you just tuning in, you're listening to KWMR in Point Reyes Station and Bolinas, this is Ocean Currents and we've been talking with Reverend Deborah Streeter, leader of the Upwellings Environmental Ministry out of Carmel, California talking about bridging science and religion to...helping to protect the ocean a little bit more. So, we're going to take a short break and when I come back, we'll have David McGuire with us, a film producer from Trillium Films out of Sausalito. Please stay with us.

(Silence)

*Jennifer Stock:* Welcome back, folks. You're listening to Ocean Currents and this is Jennifer Stock and I have David McGuire in the studio with me. David McGuire is a film producer with Trillium Films out of Sausalito and he is going to talk today about Stewards of the Reef. A little background on David, he's a diver, videographer, writer, and ocean voyager and he is educated in marine biology and holds a masters in environmental health and has worked in education and environmental health for over a decade and David, I'm really curious, how do you manage a career sailing on the Polynesian sail voyages filming sharks, and also doing environmental health? Do you still do both of these things?

*David McGuire:* Indirectly, yes. Thanks, Jennifer, for having me on the show. It's a great program. I worked at UC Berkeley for about ten years and I was kind of taking leaves longer and longer, going out in the ocean

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and diving and eventually I just decided I had to get out of the building and into the ocean. I felt that I could make more of a difference in ocean education and even public health by dealing with ocean health issues.

*Jennifer Stock:* It's great. It's a neat perspective to bring to marine conservation and education. So, tell me a little bit about this Trillium Films Company in Sausalito. What types of films does the company focus on?

*David McGuire:* Well, it's a very small company. There are really only three or four of us and we make nature films. The last one was on the Headwaters Forest called "The Last Stand," primarily just nature conservation films. This is the first ocean film.

*Jennifer Stock:* And so, how did you get focused on sharks?

*David McGuire:* Well, I've always loved sharks. I've always lived near the ocean and sharks are very, very important to the marine system and scientists have always known this, but it's becoming increasingly on the radar how important they really are as they are becoming hunted out and we're seeing whole ecosystems change as the result of the removal of these top predators. It's a big point in Shark Stewards of the Reef that we look at the importance of sharks ecologically, but also culturally as well and sharks...I've lived in Hawaii and in Hawaii sharks are very important. They are a deity. They deify them whereas we demonize them in our culture and one good example of that, I was driving in here and you see the no shark sticker, which I don't think people mean malignantly, but it's really a bad message because sharks live here.

This is like, one of the areas of greatest shark attacks, but it's one per year on the average and most people survive. So, we really have a misconception of sharks and recent studies have come out that some populations have been fished out as much as 90 percent, some even more.

*Jennifer Stock:* That's insane. Well, I have, actually, a quick clip from the trailer, let's play this real quick so people can get a flavor for...first I gotta pull it up...get a flavor for what the movie is all about. So, stay tuned.

*\*Trailer Audio\**

*Voice 1:* It is important to have an ocean with all its components. A healthy and functioning ocean including the predators. Sharks were these

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apex predators in coral reefs for 300 million years until we humans got there. Now we are the apex predators in reefs all around the world.

*Voice 2:* I think one of the biggest problems with fisheries worldwide is we've just got too good at it. I mean, in many things in life, in industry for example, you want to be efficient, but in terms of fish you don't want to be too efficient. If you're too efficient you take out everything.

*Voice 3:* We're seeing increased fishing pressure on sharks all over the world and through all types of fishing gear.

*Voice2:* Shark Population is decreasing pretty badly. Some estimates say 85 percent in the last 15 years.

*Jennifer Stock:* Wow, you can really tell the drama with the music. It's a great choice of music.

*David McGuire:* Thanks.

*Jennifer Stock:* So, there must have been a lot of research put into this film before you actually got to get out filming and meeting these other experts in the field about ecology of sharks. How much time went in prior to starting the filming process?

*David McGuire:* Well, it was interesting. We actually went...this was shot off of a sailboat on a voyage from here to New Zealand, Hawaii, and back and the original concept was to do something on atolls and atoll life and we spent a great deal of our time and a great deal of our filming in the Tuamotu Archipelago as part of French Polynesia. Well, as soon as we splashed and were in the water with hundreds of sharks, I mean, I knew it had to be about sharks and the more we learned about the issues facing sharks, we knew it had to be about sharks and we actually experienced the removal of sharks on some islands where we saw them fishing at night and we dove reefs that were completely depopulated of these top predators and other fish and you could see the degradation occurring right before your eyes, essentially and really, sharks became symptomatic or symbolic, I should say, of what the greater ocean conservation issues are.

Sharks are the regulator of the ocean. They're the, you know, the carburetor runs crazy without the regulator and that's what's going when we're removing these top predators. We're getting an imbalance in the system and we get this cascade effect and it

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creates disease of the coral reefs or algafication, detrophication, it really becomes a compounding issue. So, we pretty early on made a film from French Polynesia Tuamotu. So, like, we really needed to do something about sharks and then when we found out the shark coral reef connection as highlighted by Dr. Solives, Scripps Institute, we said, "That's it," and as a marine biologist it was very easy to do the research and do the writing for the film and we had to cut it back from an hour.

*Jennifer Stock:* I bet it's very hard to cut back. Well, first I just want to mention this whole sail trip sounds like a movie in itself. Sailing from San Francisco to Hawaii and then where after that? French Polynesia?

*David McGuire:* Yeah, it was a movie in itself. It kind of is. We have hundreds of hours of footage, actually, but we started it in Sausalito and this is when I was still at Berkeley and we sailed to the Marquesas Island. I've done a circum-Pacific navigation before and I left, went back to work, and then we went to...they went on and I hooked up the next year and then the next year, I rejoined them in Tahiti and we went westward to the Cook Islands and Tonga and Fiji and down to New Zealand...

*Jennifer Stock:* Oh my gosh..

*David McGuire:* ...and then back to the Tuamotus. At that point, it became so concrete that, ok, these are the shots we need to finish this film up and then we ended up in Hawaii just as the sanctuary...well, the sanctuary had kind of been languishing at that point...

*Jennifer Stock:* This is the Northwest Hawaiian Islands you're talking about?

*David McGuire:* ...the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Sanctuary, the proposed 14th sanctuary and I'm a big advocate of the sanctuaries and marine protection and it's like, we need to do something as a solution. We've seen all of the decimation of pelagic fish. We've seen degradation of coral reef habitat. What can we do to conserve and protect our oceans? These are so important and so we really wanted to pitch and just out of the blue, President Bush signed in the new Marine National Monument...

*Jennifer Stock:* That must have been a shock from being on a sailboat all this time and then, wow, you hear all of this news.

*David McGuire:* It happened when we were back, but fortunately, we had not quite finished the script or the film itself. We were just wrapping it up, but it was a welcome change.

*Jennifer Stock:* That's interesting and, you know, one of the things from...I've had Andy Collins on before right after the monument was designated, actually, and something I find really interesting about that ecosystem is that it seems that the top predation level is fairly in tact as far as the whole reef ecosystems. There's a lot of top predators still there, which is one of few areas on the planet where it still is in tact as an ecosystem like, did you witness it that way?

*David McGuire:* Yes. That's exactly true and that's why these remote islands that are relatively or mostly or completely uninhabited are important to conserve and even limit visitation in some areas or completely restrict it in others. It is very top-predator rich just like the Tuamotu Atoll, just like Palmyra Atoll where I've been doing some work with the Nature Conservancy and Fish and Wildlife and these are the areas that have not been fished. They've had relatively good enforcement because they're in U.S. waters. The Coast Guard are there.

They're relatively well-studied because Fish and Wildlife are there and these are the areas that really do need to be studied because you can actually transfer the knowledge from an in tact system and hopefully restore a system that's less in tact.

*Jennifer Stock:* Well, one of the things, you know, earlier in the show we were talking about religions and the relationship with nature with religion and I think the Polynesian culture really has an amazing relationship with nature in their language and I actually, I have a track right here that I want to play real quick that names the new monument because it's a name I can't personally say, but it's said very well here and it's explained as to what the meaning is behind it and this is the area that David was just talking about, the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. It was just renamed as the Marine National Monument of the name of which you're going to learn in just a second.

*Unnamed speaker:* The name, Papahānaumokuākea, comes from an old story from mythologies concerning Hawaiian traditions and cosmology and in the distant past there were two very well known ancestors of the Hawaiians, Papahānaumoku, who is symbolic of the Earth mother or a Papa who gives, literally give birth to the islands and Wākea who is like the sky father and the union of these two people resulted in two things: the birthing of the Hawaiian race and all of the descendants that they have in Hawaii today and also the birthing of the Hawaiian Islands, the most isolated Archipelago on the planet that stretches all the way from Hawaii Island all the way

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up to Kure or Holaniku. The story serves as a reminder to everybody about the connection between man and his environment and our responsibility to take care of the environment.

*Jennifer Stock:* I think that pretty much sums it up for what that area is about and the relationship folks have with that out there.

*David McGuire:* Yeah, what's very interesting is that the sanctuaries, and the wonderful thing about our marine sanctuaries is that they don't just protect natural resources, they protect cultural resources and that's a perfect example and there are island such as Mokumanamana and Nihoa that have ancient shrines on them that were believed to be wayfinding points for the old Hawaiian navigators and they're still extant and Hawaiians go there for sacred rites and they have access to these area that...and they're conserved there, the shrines are conserved and they're very sacred and they're respected and it's a wonderful thing.

*Jennifer Stock:* It's amazing just the story of how this place has come to be and that recognition there. So, you were mentioning that as you approached this area and were realizing, "Oh my gosh. This monument was just designated," it changed the way of your film. How did it take the end of your film?

*David McGuire:* Well, if you watch so many films you get hit with the issues, particularly with documentary, people roll their eyes and go, "Oh my god. Another documentary," and it's very serious and sobering, but there is hope and we have to have hope and we have to believe and, you know, your program preceding it was really great because the ocean is a very spiritual thing and it's really our source and it hopefully is our source of our salvation as well as our birth and there must be hope and conservation of these area and I just lost my train of thought...

*Jennifer Stock:* We're generating hope...the end of the film of the monuments.

*David McGuire:* Right. Well, we wanted to end on a message of hope and it's...so we seized upon the marine protected area concept and at the time it was the proposed 14th national marine sanctuary and it's like, "Well, this is great. It's coral reef. It's sharks. It's predator-rich. It's near America, yet it's not highly habitated. It's a great thing to preserve. We really need to conserve it and who knows if it's going to happen during this administration?" Nobody thought, Andy Collins, all the people, Lani Loha, in the office were like, "No it's not going to happen."

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It's like, well, I want to come out in support of this and I want to support this sanctuary and that's going to be our conclusion and at the last minute it just happened. Apparently, President Bush saw Jean-Michel Cousteau, Voyage to Kure film, and he just said, "I'm going to sign it in." I think there were other things. There was very little resistance to it besides a few fishermen The Hawaiians were for it, mostly. The governor, you know, was for it, but it was a great environmental gesture and I won't make any political statements.

*Jennifer Stock:*

No, we don't need to do that. I think this audience is very well aware of that, but it is an amazing example and I'm so enjoying hearing how it's progressing and how they're working together with the agencies. So, about the film, *Sharks: Stewards of the Reef*, it debuted at the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival and I know that it's recently played at the Tiburon Film Festival. Where are some places folks can see it? It's a thirty minute film and I, you know, I saw it and it has beautiful footage and honestly, it was...some of it very hard to swallow because you don't honestly see this every day as far as some of the real footage that you show, but it's sobering. Where can folks see it?

*David McGuire:*

Right. Well, just to add on that, one of the things I don't want to give the impression of is that this is a man-eating film because we went to great endeavor to show sharks in their natural habitat and the beautiful animals they are and how highly adapted and really, it was very difficult to film because we didn't chum, we didn't attract sharks, and pretty much these large sharks, if they see you they leave before you see them or they come look at you and they're gone and so as far as swallowing, it has more to do with what's happening to sharks not what sharks are doing to people.

We've been showing at film festivals. I just got back from Seattle. We're showing in Europe. We're quite well-received over there. We're really getting launched in the U.S. We're going to have an event on June 9th, World Ocean Day, that I kind of cooked up with the Surfrider Foundation in Marin and we're going to host *Sharks: Stewards of the Reef* at the Lark Theater on 549 Magnolia in Larkspur and this is a fundraiser for the Lark Theater, which is a great independent theater and so Surfrider will be there, other nonprofits, California Academy of Sciences, The Cordell Bank National....

We'll be there!



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*David McGuire:* ...Marine Sanctuary, and other nonprofits will come out and make this a great ocean awareness and education event. With our film will be [thankyou.org](http://thankyou.org), [thankyouocean.org](http://thankyouocean.org)...

*Jennifer Stock:* Right.

*David McGuire:* ...which I'm a member of the California Oceans Communication Alliance, Shifting Baselines, which are great, short PSAs by Randy Olsen. There's going to be a surf film by Surfrider. So, it's going to be kind of an ocean film fest and then education with tables and like ukulele music. So, it's from noon to 4 at the Lark Theater in Larkspur.

*Jennifer Stock:* And this is on Saturday, June 9th.

*David McGuire:* Saturday, June 9th. It's actually the day after World Ocean Day. We're doing a little kickoff in the city on the real ocean day, Saturday...I mean, I'm sorry, Friday, June 8th and you can go to the website [info@oceandayssf.org](mailto:info@oceandayssf.org)

*Jennifer Stock:* Info at...say that again?

*David McGuire:* Info at ocean days S-F dot org or you can go to our website, [www.sharkstewards.com](http://www.sharkstewards.com).

*Jennifer Stock:* I'm sure you could also look up Lark Theater, World Oceans Day.

*David McGuire:* That...yes.

*Jennifer Stock:* So, many ways. It's amazing, the power of the internet searching. You know, I just recently read that World Ocean Day was created in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, although it's not yet officially designated by the U.N, but it's an opportunity for us to celebrate our ocean and I'm so thrilled to celebrate it through film because it's such a great way to personally connect. I'm so excited for this event. I love ocean films, but I just also read that President Bush declared this World Oceans Month.

*David McGuire:* Yeah, that's great.

*Jennifer Stock:* He's becoming an ocean man.

*David McGuire:* He's planning all kinds of surprised. Yeah, this is...what we're trying to do is to get the U.N. to recognize this as World Ocean Day. It's the 14th annual event, but this will be the first in Marin County, kind of seized upon that as an idea with Surfriders. We

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were like, "Let's do a film. Let's do an ocean awareness event. How about let's do it at the Lark," and then, you know, I learned about the Lark's drive to buy the theater back so it doesn't become another shopping mall and it maintains it's beautiful...

*Jennifer Stock:* It's a really...

*David McGuire:* ...art deco

*Jennifer Stock:* ...beautiful...

*David McGuire:* ...theater...

*Jennifer Stock:* ...theater.

*David McGuire:* ...single-screen, independent theater that shows documentaries. So, that's how it all kind of evolved and we really put...cobbled it together very quickly. Next year will be really bigger and greater, but...

*Jennifer Stock:* I'm so excited...

*David McGuire:* ...I'm really looking forward to it also.

*Jennifer Stock:* I've been...I really am a big fan of the Ocean Film Festival happening in San Francisco and I've recently been thinking, "Wouldn't it be cool if we had one in West Marin, even just once a month?" So, I'm sort of cultivating some ideas in my brain of how to bring some ocean films out here and maybe we'll be talking more about that. So...

*David McGuire:* Great.

*Jennifer Stock:* Folks, next Saturday is World Ocean....well, World Ocean Day is Friday the 8th, but you can come out to the Lark Theater on Saturday to see some films, some of them really short, some of them a little bit longer that all celebrate our watery planet. There will be some non-profits. There will be some ukulele. Will there be hula dancers too?

*David McGuire:* There may be some hula dancers.

*Jennifer Stock:* Oh, I know a couple of hula dancers locally. So, it sounds like a really fun event and I'm really looking forward to it and you can come talk to us a little bit more about maybe what you want to hear

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more on Ocean Currents. Are there any other last things you want to mention about the Sharks movie or World Oceans Day?

*David McGuire:* Well, we're hoping...we're getting the film on PBS and we really encourage people to come and look at the film. You can take action, not only for World Ocean Day, we'll have a couple petitions, we've got a finning ban petition on our website, sharkstewards.com. The really....the largest threat right now to sharks is the practice of shark finning, cutting the fin off and discarding the rest of the animal and so we want to know that people can take action in addition to supporting sanctuaries and marine protected areas.

*Jennifer Stock:* Shark finning doesn't happen in U.S. waters though, right? It's...where does it happen mainly?

*David McGuire:* It pretty much happens all over the world...

*Jennifer Stock:* Really?

*David McGuire:* ...It's recently made illegal in the U.S., just a couple months ago in Mexico, but it's going on in the Galapagos, it's going on in marine protected areas, it's going on illegally in U.S. waters. It's a huge incentive. It's like this big, black market because they're so expensive. They're so....the demand is so high for the shark fin soup and it's just creating almost like a black market drug trade that's decimating shark populations.

*Jennifer Stock:* That's insane. It seems like with a lot of these issues, same thing with the turtles and sea turtle eggs, this high-demand product that it's time to get to the demand and why is there this demand and the work with that is extraordinarily difficult.

*David McGuire:* That's right. We have to change the consumers' minds and change the kids and get them to say, "No." No to shark fin soup because it's not sustainable. There are no sustainable shark fisheries. There's no shark farms. There aren't that many sharks.

*Jennifer Stock:* There are not that many sharks. Well, it all starts with education and letting people be aware. So, thank you very much for being a part of this film and sharing it with us today.

*David McGuire:* Thanks for having me.

*Jennifer Stock:* I was really excited to talk with Deborah to see a movement afoot that no matter who we are as individuals or what we believe in

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regards to spirituality or science, fact is we are all on the same planet and dealing with the same threats to humanity and nature. Some are feeling it harder than others, but it can only help to have more and more people addressing, talking about this planet and raising our collective concerns. So, kudos to leaders like Deborah for helping lead the way and to filmmakers like David that are bringing incredible footage and issues about the ocean environment to us on our screens and I'll be back on June 28th.

I'll be talking to Roz Savage who is preparing for a long row across the Pacific Ocean. Last year she crossed the Atlantic Ocean solo and now she's getting ready to row from San Francisco to Hawaii to American Samoa and on to Australia. This is a single rowboat, one person. Pretty exciting woman and we'll be celebrating her launch in July, but we're going to have her in just about a week or so before she takes off and maybe she will pass our wayward humpback whales that have maybe made it up the Golden Gate we're hoping, but she's also going to be communicating with land and people will be able to track her online. So, we'll talk more about that June 28th. Thanks for joining us today on Ocean Currents. This is KWMR in Point Reyes Station and Bolinas.